

## CLAIMS

- 09021412-004704
1. A polishing apparatus for polishing a workpiece, comprising:  
a processing section for polishing a workpiece;  
a receiving section for supplying a workpiece to be polished to said processing section and/or receiving a polished workpiece; and  
a clean chamber disposed between said processing section and said receiving section, with said clean chamber including a partition with a shutter which separates said processing section from said receiving section.
  2. The polishing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a load and unload section is disposed between said processing section and said receiving section.
  3. The polishing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pressure in said clean chamber is to be higher than the pressure in said processing section and lower than the pressure in said receiving section.
  4. The polishing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a transfer device for transferring the workpiece between said clean chamber and said receiving section is disposed in said load and unload section.

5. A polishing apparatus for polishing a semiconductor wafer, comprising:  
a processing section for polishing a semiconductor wafer;  
a receiving section for supplying a semiconductor wafer to be polished to said processing section and receiving a polished semiconductor wafer; and  
a positioning mechanism for aligning a reference position of the semiconductor wafer with a predetermined direction so that while the semiconductor wafer is transported between said processing section and said receiving section the semiconductor wafer is of a predetermined orientation.

6. The polishing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said positioning mechanism is disposed in a clean chamber disposed between said processing section and said receiving section, with said clean chamber including a partition with a shutter which separates said processing section from said receiving section.

7. The polishing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said positioning mechanism includes a rotating mechanism for holding and rotating the semiconductor wafer, and a sensor for detecting the reference position of the semiconductor wafer, such that the reference position of the semiconductor wafer can be aligned with the predetermined direction by using an output from said sensor and causing said rotating mechanism to rotate the semiconductor wafer.

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